

With this issue the WILMINGTON JOURNAL begins the twenty-fifth year of its existence. This is a long time in the life of a Southern newspaper, but as the influence of the JOURNAL has increased with its age, and we trust, been exercised for the common good, we hope we may boast of having "that which should accompany old age, as honors, love, troops of friends." We feel that our labors have not been entirely lost, and that we have done something to promote the prosperity and well-being of our fellow-citizens.

Through all the varying fortunes which have attended our papers, in years of sunshine and through the perils of war and the clouds of despair, in sickness and in health, for twenty-four years the JOURNAL has continued its weekly visits to its friends. Its history has become identified with Wilmington, and its future fate bound up with that of its natal city.

One of the present editors of the JOURNAL was one of its founders, and for the entire period of its existence has watched its career with active care, and not without pride. Gray in the service himself, it is with profound satisfaction that he sees his hantling grown to man's estate and possessing the strength of healthful maturity.

The JOURNAL is too well known to require promises of unflinching energy and enterprise to recommend it to the public. The good will of the people, the continued support of its patrons, and the encouraging partiality of its friends, are the only "certificates of character" which its conductors desire to render it useful to the country and profitable to themselves.

Andrew Jackson Jones.

The Conservative Convention, in nominating Colonel THOMAS F. TOON as their candidate for Senator in the Fourteenth Senatorial District, composed of the counties of Bladen and Columbus, has done itself credit, and presented a name of which the District has cause to be proud. In every relation of life Colonel Toon has acquitted himself with honor. A gallant soldier, a worthy citizen, and a gentleman of ability and probity, he stands before the people of the District not only without reproach, but with honor and credit. Of incorruptible integrity, his services are particularly needed in this day of political corruption and official venality.

In this contest Colonel Toon has for an opponent one who is not unknown in the political history of this section, and the people of their District must soon choose between them. Even without moral or political disqualifications, Andrew J. Jones comes under the ban of the Fourteenth Article of the Federal Constitution, for which offense Col. Purdie was deprived of his seat. Mr. Jones was a Senator of North Carolina before the war, and during the war was an agent of the Confederate Government to purchase horses and mules for war purposes. He cannot, therefore, as we are informed he alleges, take the "iron-clad" oath, unless he forswears himself, as others in the South have done for sums almost as small as his *per diem* would be for the remainder of the session, if he should be elected.

As Mr. Jones has placed his name, unasked, before the people of that District for their suffrages, he cannot certainly object to an investigation into his moral qualifications as derived from official papers. Even if he does, we propose to make such an investigation.

It is notorious that when JONATHAN WORTH announced himself as a candidate for Governor in 1865, he immediately tendered his resignation as Provisional Treasurer, whenever Governor Holden should appoint his successor, and that no response was made to the letter of resignation until the returns made it certain that Mr. WORTH was elected, some six weeks afterwards. Dr. Sloan, of Gaston, was appointed Provisional Treasurer only a few weeks previous to the meeting of the General Assembly. Of this Legislature Andrew J. Jones was a member, and was placed on the Senate branch of the Committee on Finance.

Why was WORTH removed and Sloan appointed Treasurer at this juncture? No body questioned the ability or fidelity of WORTH. His recent successful efforts to replenish the Treasury at that critical period, extorted praise from his bitterest political foes. His removal, then, gave him no mortification. The people of North Carolina had just expressed their confidence in him under the most trying circumstances. His thorough knowledge of our financial resources—our wants and the means of supplying them, when the people had no money, and all departments of industry, and society itself, were disorganized—would have been valuable to the General Assembly then about to meet. It was notorious that Dr. Sloan was incompetent to give any useful aid or information to the Legislature. In fact, he submitted no communication of any sort to that body. It was expected, under President Jones's plan, that civil government was soon to take the place of the Provisional Government, and in the election of Public Treasurer, KEMP P. BATTLE was elected over Sloan to enter into the discharge of his duties when the Provisional Government should cease.

Sweepson, Mendenhall & Co., Commission Merchants in New York, had been employed by Treasurer WORTH to sell cotton for the State. The manner in which they had transacted this business was not satisfactory to him, and the agency was changed to another house. At the time of this change there was a considerable amount of cotton in the hands of S. M. & Co., and on the way to them, and there

was a large unadjusted account between them and the State. This matter was fully explained by Governor WORTH to Sloan and the Finance Committee. Colonel COWAN, of New Hanover, also a member of this Committee, suggested that WORTH be sent to settle up this business. He was then out of employment and was willing to go without compensation, his expenses being paid by the State. This suggestion seemed to meet the universal approbation of the Committee. It was, however, suggested by A. J. Jones that it might be proper and more courteous to the Provisional Governor (Holden) that he be first consulted. All acquiesced in this.

The next thing that was known in regard to this matter, was the fact that Sloan and Jones had gone to New York. Before their return, unfortunately for them and their scheme, the Provisional Government had been discontinued, and WORTH, as Governor, and BATTLE, as Treasurer, had been installed into office. On Sloan's return he handed Treasurer BATTLE an exhibit of a settlement he had made with Sweepson, Mendenhall & Co., and paid over the balance which this exhibit showed as due the State.

The correspondence which ensued between Governor WORTH and Treasurer BATTLE, and Sloan and Jones, and Sweepson, Mendenhall & Co., and which was ordered to be published by the Legislature, is too voluminous to be inserted here. To-morrow we will publish it entire, and show how Jones & Co., composed of A. J. Jones and Dr. Sloan, pocketed \$2,224 44, and only disgorged after the introduction of the resolution by the Legislature calling for the correspondence. This correspondence we promise, will be interesting, and we shall comment on it when given. This historical resume of facts we deemed essential to a full understanding of the whole transaction.

Daily Journal 9th.

A. J. Jones, of the Firm of Jones & Co., Cotton Brokers.

We publish to-day in full the correspondence exposing the transaction of Mr. A. J. Jones and Dr. Sloan in their detected scheme to defraud the State, and it is necessary only to sum up the case.

These two officials, one the Treasurer of the State, the other a Senator of the State, whose duty it was to protect the money interest of North Carolina, we see by these letters [were together in New York] defrauding the State. Sloan's office expired on the 28th of December, 1865, and on the 29th of December, he sells to A. J. Jones & Co., thirty-seven bales of cotton, after he has informed that 47 cents per pound was offered for it, at \$5,062 53, which was sold the same day for \$7,286 97, whereby Jones & Co. pocketed, and the State lost, \$2,224 44. Sloan comes to Raleigh and files an account in which the State is credited for \$5,062 53, and settles with Treasurer BATTLE accordingly. No intimation is made to Mr. BATTLE that Jones holds \$2,224 44, to which the State is entitled.

When Governor WORTH finds out all about this transaction, more than a month afterwards, then the parties pretend the trade had been rescinded before they left New York. If this pretense had the least shadow of truth in it, why was not the money paid when Sloan returned? Why was no explanation made until the facts were otherwise discovered? If the pretended contract, as to the cotton in transit, was rescinded, why was \$500 paid to Jones, in advance of its receipt, by Sweepson, Mendenhall & Co., and why was this fact suppressed by all the parties for months? It was the confession extorted from criminals after detection.

It will be seen by reference to Mr. BATTLE's receipt that A. J. Jones disgorged the \$2,224 44 on the 5th of March, 1866, which was after the introduction of the resolution in the General Assembly calling for the correspondence, which is published elsewhere.

For want of time there was no legislative action in this case, but we have heard and have no doubt of the fact, that in Sweepson, Mendenhall & Co.'s subsequent report of the sales of cotton on the way to them, but not received when Jones and Sloan were in New York, being about one hundred bales, which Sloan had contracted to sell to Jones, which trade both the parties in their letters to the Governor, certified had been rescinded, the State was charged five hundred dollars, a sum alleged to have been advanced to Jones on account of this cotton which was to arrive, for which they had taken Jones' note. Mr. BATTLE has informed us that he made a demand on Sweepson, Mendenhall & Co. and Jones for this money. Jones promised to pay it as soon as he visited Raleigh, about the middle of December, 1866. Before he came to Raleigh, Mr. Sweepson paid it, with interest, to Mr. BATTLE, protesting that it ought to come out of Jones, saying he intended to claim it of him.

We have thus exposed this beautiful scheme of Jones & Co. to defraud the State, and how they were thwarted after the first fruits of their crime were in their possession. The senior member of the cotton speculating firm of Jones & Co. desires again to go into the service of the State as one of its Senators. His history would seem to point him out especially as fitted for a seat in the present Legislature, but we will not believe that the good people of Bladen and Columbus will again trust him with their confidence. He has shown himself entirely unworthy of it, and undeserving the support of honest men anywhere.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, Raleigh, March 7th, 1866.

To the Honorable the House of Commons of the General Assembly of North Carolina:

In compliance with your resolution requiring the Governor and Public Treasurer "to send to the Legislature the correspondence and papers of Cyrus P. Mendenhall and others on the subject of the cotton belonging to the State," I herewith send copies of the correspondence to which it is supposed your resolution has reference, numbered according to date:

- No. 1, Letter from Cyrus P. Mendenhall.
- No. 2, Letter from myself to G. W. Sweepson.
- No. 3, Letter from myself to A. J. Jones.
- No. 4, Answer of A. J. Jones.
- No. 5, Letter from myself to Dr. Wm. Sloan.

No. 6, Answer of Dr. Sloan.

No. 7, Telegram to Sweepson, Mendenhall & Co.

I also herewith transmit the answer of the Public Treasurer to said resolution.

JONATHAN WORTH.

NEW YORK CITY, Feb. 24, 1866.

To His Excellency, JONATHAN WORTH, Governor of North Carolina.

DEAR SIR:—On looking into the matter of cotton belonging to the State, and which had been shipped to our House, (Sweepson, Mendenhall & Co., 70 Pearl Street,) I learned that the account had all been rendered, and a full settlement made with Dr. Sloan, Public Treasurer, 3d January ult. A statement was rendered of all received, all sold and all that remained on hand, up to 5th December, 1865, to Dr. Sloan, Public Treasurer, who came on here in company with Mr. Jones, (A. J. Jones, I believe,) and were making enquiry about State Cotton on 29th December, 1865, stating that they supposed the house had some 6 or 7 hundred bales. On being informed there was but a small lot here, 10 or 12 bales, but that address had been received of the shipment of some hundreds bales, which were looked for daily; and while they were here, enough arrived to make 40 bales, and Dr. Sloan directed R. R. Sweepson to let Mr. Jones have it at 33 cents.

Mr. S. says he went out and had the cotton sampled, and was offered 47¢, 12¢, and so told Dr. Sloan. The Dr. still told him to let Mr. Jones have it at 33¢. Sweepson declined to do so, and said that he, Dr. Sloan, must take the responsibility of doing so, if the cotton was sold for less than 47¢.

Whereupon Dr. Sloan ordered the cotton sold at 33 cents per pound, to A. J. Jones & Co., and the same day, A. J. Jones ordered it sold, and it was sold as per acceptance, herewith sent you at 47¢.

No money actually passed, until the latter sale, when Dr. Sloan, Agent for the State, took the amount at 33 cents per pound, and Mr. Jones, the cotton, at 47 cents between 33 and 47¢, cents per pound.

Comment is unnecessary. I trust you understand the case.

I thought proper to advise you of the facts, as I learn them here.

Mr. G. W. Sweepson informs me that he had written Mr. Gulick, Cashier, requesting him to inform you of the sale of cotton at 33 cents, was made by Dr. S. to Jones, the facts he would give you on his return to Raleigh, and requested him to mention it to you, but I thought best to write you directly on the subject, in all which, Mr. G. W. Sweepson joins me.

Yours truly,

CYRUS P. MENDENHALL.

Statement of cotton belonging to the State of North Carolina, which was sold by Dr. Sloan, or directed to be sold by him, to A. J. Jones, 29th December, 1865, 40 bales in lot, 3 rejected as in bad order.

55 weighing 10,442 at 33¢.....\$3,445 86
12 " 4,989 at 33¢.....1,616 67
Gross amount.....\$5,062 53
Said 60 bales sold same day on account A. J. Jones & Co.
Weight 16,341 at 47¢ gross.....\$7,286 97

EXECUTIVE OFFICE, Raleigh, Feb. 6th, 1866.

Mr. G. W. SWEEPSON, New York:

DEAR SIR:—To-day I received C. P. Mendenhall's letter, showing an extraordinary transaction. I have taken no action on it as yet, but must do so. I deem it best, before acting, to have certificates from your employees, who can speak from their own knowledge, fully explaining the transaction. C. P. Mendenhall communicates what he learns second-hand from them.

A large quantity of cotton (besides the 37 bales on hand) seems to have been sold by Dr. Sloan to A. J. Jones, which had been shipped from Macon, Ga., and which had not arrived. Did this purchase money pass through your hands? How many bales were thus sold? and at what price? Were the insurance, freight and other charges paid by Jones?

Let the statements be made by those who know the facts, and let them be full and clear.

Yours, very respectfully,

JONATHAN WORTH.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE, N. C., Raleigh, Feb. 7th, 1866.

A. J. JONES, Esq., Raleigh, N. C.:

DEAR SIR:—I received on yesterday a communication from a gentleman in New York, setting forth that Dr. Sloan, late Provisional Treasurer, had sold to you a large quantity of State cotton, at prices much below its market value. The character of the individual from whom I received this communication, imposes on me the duty of making inquiry into the alleged transaction.

I deem it due alike to our personal relations and your duty to the State to apprise you of this fact, and to say, if you purchased any State cotton from Dr. Sloan, and you think proper, that I shall be glad to have from you any communication you may think proper to make.

Yours, very respectfully,

JONATHAN WORTH.

SENATE CHAMBER, Feb. 12th, 1866.

Governor WORTH.

DEAR SIR:—In reply to your note of enquiry, I reply, I was in New York some time ago, and purchased or contracted with Dr. Sloan for some cotton, under the following circumstances, and for or about the following quantity. The Dr. was setting with him, and he had been attending to the sale of cotton, &c., and had belonged to the State and there was a remnant of 14 or 15 bales of cotton left or unsold. I suppose out of 6 or 7 hundred bales which they had reserved and sold, some of it almost worthless, but by having the bales stripped of its bagging, and all of bales picked over, &c., &c., that way, it would then bring a better price. This was all of the cotton that was in New York; but there was a shipment of 70 or 80 bales from some point in Georgia, made in two different shipments over the inland route by Rail Road, via Alexandria, thence by water to New York.

This was all of the cotton belonging to the State that had been shipped by that route.

Messrs. Sweepson & Mendenhall having had in their possession, the bill of lading for this cotton referred to above, for two months or more, it was thought, as I understood, doubtful whether it would reach New York, as the chances were that a portion, if not all, might be stolen or lost on the route.

The Dr. then bargained with me for the two invoices of cotton at 33 cents per pound, taking it whenever I might find it, at no expense to the State, but not having the 14 or 15 bales in marketable condition, I did not leave immediately to go in search of the cotton, and in the course of a few days, 25 bales of the cotton arrived in a steamer, making 38 or 40 bales with the 14 or 15 which was in New York.

I then left New York before I did 15 bales between or by Dr. Sloan and myself. I felt bound to settle with him for the bales agreed upon, which I did 11th telegraphed to several points on the Atlantic route over which it had to pass, and I found the balance, or nearly so, of the cotton.

Such being the facts, and my not having spent any time or money, except a small amount for dispatches in trying to find the cotton, I came to the conclusion that it would not be right to take it, as it would arrive safely, the State ought to have the benefit. I then came home and wrote to

Dr. Sloan, and he came down. I then stated to him the condition of the cotton, and he agreed with me in regard to it, and stated that he would have it attended to as early as possible. On account of sickness in his family, I suppose it would all have been arranged properly before this time had it not been for the above reason. This is all I know relative to the cotton.

Respectfully,

A. J. JONES.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE, N. C., Raleigh, Feb. 7th, 1866.

Dr. Wm. Sloan:

DEAR SIR:—I received on yesterday a communication from a gentleman in New York City, setting forth that you, as late Provisional Treasurer of this State, had sold to A. J. Jones, Esq., a large quantity of State cotton, at prices much below its market value. The character of the gentleman from whom I have received this communication, imposes on me the duty of making inquiry into the alleged transaction.

I deem it due to you, and the relation you have sustained to the State, to apprise you of this fact, and to say, if you made such sale, under the circumstances alleged, and you think proper, that I shall be glad to have from you any communication you may desire to make.

Very respectfully, your ob't serv't,

JONATHAN WORTH.

RALEIGH, N. C., Feb. 17th, 1866.

Gov. JONATHAN WORTH.

DEAR SIR:—I received your communication of the 7th inst., informing me, that it had been reported to you, that I had sold to A. J. Jones, Esq., a large quantity of State cotton, at prices much below its market value, and requesting an answer. I found in the hands of Messrs. Sweepson, Mendenhall & Co., in New York City, a remnant of about 15 bales of inferior cotton. He also showed me an invoice for about 80 bales, which was shipped from Georgia, via the Tennessee and Virginia Railroad to Alexandria, and on to New York. It having been shipped 6 or 8 weeks previous, and Mr. Sweepson not having received or heard from it from the time it was shipped, we supposed it was lost or stolen on the way; and not being able to get a reliable man to go and hunt it up, Mr. Jones proposed to buy it on these conditions: that he would take 15 bales of inferior cotton, which was there, and hunt up the 80 bales of cotton that was supposed to be lost, paying his expenses, and all the expenses that was on the cotton, or that would accrue upon it, and pay the State 33 cents per pound. After consultation with Mr. Robt. Sweepson, who stated to me that it would cost \$10 per pound to get it to New York, I agreed to take it; but before Mr. Jones started to hunt it up, information was received that it was at Alexandria, and 20 or 25 bales of it arrived in New York.

I then told Mr. Jones that, having heard of the cotton, and he not having to go and hunt it up, I no longer considered it a trade.

About that time I left New York, informing Mr. Sweepson that I could not let Mr. Jones have the cotton that he had heard of, at Alexandria.

I met Mr. Jones here in Raleigh about the first of the present Legislature, when it was agreed between us that the contract was rescinded.

I saw him on yesterday, and he says that he considers that the contract was rescinded, and will act accordingly.

Very respectfully yours,

WM. SLOAN.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, N. C., Raleigh, March 6th, 1866.

MESSRS. SWEEPSON, MENDENHALL & CO., No. 70 Pearl Street, New York:

The trade between Sloan and Jones & Co., as to State cotton, will not be recognized. Pay no more money on account of sales of State cotton, except to Kemp P. Battle, Public Treasurer, or his order.

JONATHAN WORTH, Governor of N. C.

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA, TREASURY DEPARTMENT, Raleigh, March 6th, 1866.

To the Honorable the House of Commons of the General Assembly of North Carolina:

In compliance with your resolution, requesting the Governor and Public Treasurer "to send to the Legislature the correspondence and papers of Cyrus P. Mendenhall and others, in relation to cotton, being the property of the State," I herewith transmit copies of the papers on file in this office, to which I suppose your resolution refers, as follows:

First, Letter from Sweepson, Mendenhall & Co., in regard to a sale, by Dr. William Sloan, of cotton, to A. J. Jones & Co.

Second, Account of sales of 78 bales of cotton by same firm. The last item, 12 bales, marked with a star, constitute a portion of the cotton embraced in said contract.

Third, Account of sales of 25 bales cotton by same firm, likewise embraced in said contract.

Fourth, Sales of 22 bales of cotton, part of same lot.

Fifth, Telegram by me to Sweepson, Mendenhall & Co.

Sixth, Receipt given by me to A. J. Jones, Esq., on account of money paid by him into the Treasury.

Respectfully submitted,

KEMP P. BATTLE, Public Treasurer.

NEW YORK, Jan. 17th, 1867.

KEMP P. BATTLE, Esq., Public Treasurer, Raleigh, N. C.:

DEAR SIR:—We have no advices of any shipments to us at present, except as follows:

35 bales Cotton from Macon, Ga., via Va. Ten line.

53 bales Cotton from Macon, Ga., via Va. Ten line.

88 in all; sold and proceeds paid to Dr. William Sloan when here, 25 bales. Rec'd since, and proceeds to your credit, 4 bales.

Leaving yet to arrive, 53 bales.

The Railroad receipts for this cotton are dated Macon, Ga., November 16th, for 35 bales.

As this cotton has been so long on the way, Dr. Sloan, fearing it might be delayed too long or not come at all, sold it to Mr. A. J. Jones, (a member of the North-Carolina State Senate, who was here with him,) at (30) thirty cents per pound, he Jones to take it, and to pay for it on here for us to hunt it up and forward it on here for us to sell. A part of it which has reached us, is poor in quality. We suppose, however, that Dr. Sloan has given you all of this information before this time. You can your self judge of the amount of Dr. Sloan's credit.

Your ob't servant,

(Signed) SWEEPSON, MENDENHALL & CO.

Sales by Sweepson, Mendenhall & Co., of 75 bales cotton of lot of 78 bales, on account of State of North Carolina, per Steamer Lee, from Savannah, Ga.

1865.

Nov. 22. Sales of 45 bales, 20,501 lbs. at 52 cents.....\$10,600 52

Sales of 6 bales, 2,700 lbs. at 52 cents.....1,404 00

Dec. 18. Sales of 5 bales auction, 2,000 lbs. at 37 1/2 cts. \$600 15

Sales Less auction charges.....10 26

589 89

Dec. 9. Sales 15 bags pickings, 1,500 at 12 1/2 cents.....187 50

Sales Less of 1 1/2 bags, 3 1/2 lbs. 3 71

183 79

Sales of 7 bales 2,701 lbs. at 12 cents.....1,185 08

Dec. 20. Sales of 22 bags pickings, 5,324 lbs. at 16 cents.....851 84

Dec. 30. Sales 5 bags pickings, 496 lbs. at 16 1/2 cents.....80 85

Sales 12 bales cotton, 4,890 lbs. at 33 cents.....1,616 07

\$16,624 24

CHARGES.....6,839 67

Net proceeds.....9,784 57

New York 30th Dec. 1865, 3 bales cotton still on hand. (Rejected.)

Sales by Sweepson, Mendenhall & Co., of 25 bales cotton, on account of State of North Carolina, per Steamer J. C. Knight, from Alexandria, Va.

1865.

Dec. 29. Sales 25 bales, 10,442 lbs. at 33 cents.....\$3,445 86

CHARGES.....

Freight and charges for bill of lading.....\$400 00

Hauling 49 37, Labor \$12 50.....21 87

Storage \$12 50.....18 75

ing \$6 25.....56 83

Marine Insurance.....32 20

Fire.....8 61

Prokage.....3 44

Government tax.....86 14

Commissions.....62 84

Net proceeds.....\$2,818 02

New York, 30th Dec. 1865.

Sales 22 bales cotton on account State of North Carolina, being part of lot of 63 bales, shipped from Macon, Ga., but which had not arrived in New York on 1st January, 1866.

1866.

Feb. 1. Sales to Jones & Co., Wilmington, N. C., by Dr. Wm. Sloan, Public Treasurer, of all charges to the State of N. C., viz:

7 bales, 3,060 lbs. at 30 cents.....\$918 00

Feb. 9. 9 bales, 4,234 lbs. at 30 cents.....1,270 20

Feb. 20. 6 bales, 2,814 lbs. at 30 cents.....853 20

\$3,041 40

(Signed) SWEEPSON, MENDENHALL & CO.

[TELEGRAM.]

RALEIGH, March 4th, 1866.

SWEEPSON, MENDENHALL & CO., No. 70 Pearl Street, New York:

Jones has closed up his contract with Sloan. Hold all proceeds of cotton for me.

(Signed) KEMP P. BATTLE, Pub. Treas.

RALEIGH, March 5th, 1866.

Received of A. J. Jones the sum of two thousand two hundred and twenty-four dollars and forty-four cents, proceeds of sale of thirty-seven bales cotton, by Sweepson, Mendenhall & Co., under contract between Dr. Sloan and A. J. Jones, which contract has been rescinded.

(Signed) KEMP P. BATTLE, Pub. Treas.

1st. Note the inconsistency of the statement between the letter (No. 1) of C. P. M. to Gov. W., and letter (No. 1) of C. P. M. to K. P. B.

2nd. Inconsistency of statement accompanying letter No. 1 of C. P. M. to Gov. with statements Nos. 2 and 3 of S. M. & Co.

3d. Inconsistency between the letters of Wm. Sloan and A. J. Jones as to the time of rescinding the trade.

OUR RALEIGH CORRESPONDENCE.